



St. Louis Audubon Society

Tale Feathers

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October Picnic to be Held at Shaw Arboretum at Peak of Fall Colors

by Jim Holsen

The fall colors in the Missouri Ozarks will be at their very best for Audubon's fall picnic, scheduled for Sunday, October 19, at the Adlyne Freund Center at the Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit, Missouri. Plan to meet your friends, enjoy the fall weather, and visit the prairie and nearby wetland sites.

The Freund Center will be open from 2 to 8 pm. Plan on a picnic dinner around 5 or 6 pm. As in past years, Audubon will furnish a meat dish (hamburgers, bratwurst, and/or hot dogs) and soda. Bring a dish to share with others, other drinks that you may prefer, and your own eating utensils, plates, etc. All members and their guests are welcome.

The wetlands area, created by Dr. James Trager, an Audubon member, is only a short walk from the Freund Center. Last year we enjoyed a stroll at dusk around the wetlands and back across the boardwalk. Dusk will come early in October, so plan to eat a little early if you want to see the sun set on the wetlands. Earlier in the afternoon is a good time for the somewhat longer walk to the native Missouri tall grass prairie. See the tall bluestem grasses and fall wildflowers at the end of the summer growing season.

The Shaw Arboretum of the Missouri Botanical Garden is located about 23 miles west from the I-44/I-270 intersection near Kirkwood. Take I-44 west to Gray Summit. Exit and turn left across the overpass. To reach the Freund Center, after crossing over I-44 turn right onto the outer highway (Hwy 100); then immediately turn left onto Gray Summit Road, which runs along the east side of the Arboretum. Continue for about 1.5 miles to a sign on twin stone

gateposts which mark the entrance to the Freund Center.

You do not pass through the Visitor's Center to reach the Freund Center. Take these directions with you if you are unfamiliar with the Freund Center.

Be sure to see the box on page 6 for more details. Please call Jim Holsen (H# 822-0410) to make reservations.

Fall Migration is Underway-- Just Slowly

by Jim Malone

The fall bird migration in the Midwest is very different from the spring, offering a new set of challenges and rewards for the seasonal birder. In the spring, most northbound warblers are already in their brightest mating plumage, making them easy to see picking bugs from the leafless twigs of the budding trees. Although these bouncy, little speed demons of the branches move as fast in the fall, the migration south moves at a slower pace, so we usually have more time to see them.

Our first walk of the 1997-98 St. Louis Audubon calendar was at Tower Grove Park on September 7. The day got off to a slow start with a real shortage of any birds in the west end of the park (usually a very productive area). The group did see a yellow-shafted flicker, numerous robins, a brown thrasher, a Blackburnian warbler, and 1 warbler which we couldn't see quite well enough to hang a name on (possibly a Nashville or morning warbler). Upon moving to the other end of the park, we had much better luck. In the cypress trees, we found a pine warbler which hadn't

quite gotten the family song down yet (but was getting there) and a prairie warbler. Moving along the road near this area, we hit a pocket of birds containing chestnut-sided warblers, red-eyed vireos, a yellow-billed cuckoo, and a female summer tanager.

Our next trip (Riverlands on September 27) will likely be over by the time this newsletter is distributed, but the following week, on Sunday, October 5, we will be taking a day trip to Carlyle Lake. Not only is Carlyle Lake the largest lake in Illinois, but it also has some of the best variety of habitats anywhere within 50 miles of St. Louis. On this trip, we hope to meet Dan Kassebaum, who will take us to some of his favorite spots at Carlyle. This time of year, Carlyle should be good for migrating passerines, early ducks, gulls, grebes, and shorebirds. We will probably check out 1 or more sewage lagoons on this trip, and we may walk out to some areas that are a bit muddy, so I would recommend bringing boots.

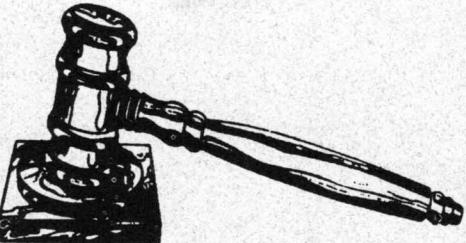
This will be an all-day trip, so please get to the meeting point at Horseshoe Lake before 8 am. (We want to leave about then.) We will try to carpool wherever possible, but your efforts to do so before arriving at Horseshoe Lake will be appreciated. Remember to bring your lunch and something to drink as we will probably be eating in the field (although we may stop at McDonald's). If you are a bit late, we will be regrouping at the Cherokee Hiking Trail at Hazlett State Park on Carlyle Lake about 9 am to meet with Dan, so you can catch up with us there.

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From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Audubon Loses Two Board Members

The St. Louis Audubon Society is losing 2 members of its board of directors.

Rex Gary Schmidt will be moving to Farmington, Missouri, in the near future. Rex has been a photographer for the *Missouri Conservationist*, the publication of the Missouri Department of Conservation, since its earliest days, when the Department was founded in the late 1930's. Readers of the *Conservationist*, as we all should be, will recall that his photographs still appear in current issues. Look carefully for the attribution in photos that go back several years in the past. Rex has helped us to maintain a sense of continuity with the early days of the Department of Conservation--something that Missourians should not forget. Our non-political Department of Conservation is still a model for the rest of the nation.

Chris Serbia, recently elected to be our vice president for education, has moved with her husband to Connecticut, where he has accepted a new job. Chris was particularly active in bringing new ideas for our consideration. Audubon's role in education is under review--we hope to be more effective in meeting the needs of local teachers, but we are still searching for the correct approach. We will miss Chris' contributions to our new programs in education.

We wish Rex Gary Schmidt and Chris Serbia success in their new endeavors.

Audubon Regional Conference Scheduled for the End of October

The West Central Region of the National Audubon Society, including the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa, will hold

a regional conference at the University Plaza Holiday Inn in Springfield, Missouri, from October 31 through November 2.

John Flicker, president of National Audubon, will be present as will Glenn Olson, director of field offices. Jerry Conley, the new Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, will also participate.

The agenda has not been published, but it will undoubtedly include the new Audubon campaigns for the Missouri and Upper Mississippi Rivers among other regional activities. Birding field trips are scheduled for each day. Call Jim Holsen at H# 822-0410 for more information.

St. Louis Audubon Represented at Kirkwood's Greentree Festival

The St. Louis Audubon Society maintained an information booth at Kirkwood's annual Greentree Festival in Kirkwood Park on September 6 and 7. The following members helped at the booth:

Lynne Breakstone
Jerry Castillon
Jim Holsen
Dianne Johnson
Arthur Montgomery
Dannia Stevens

All receive our thanks for helping Audubon to serve the public with information and ideas on birds and bird habitat-related issues.

Get to Know

... Bill Groth

(This is the nineteenth in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

A native St. Louisan, I became interested in birds after attending 1 of the public bird walks that the St. Louis Bird Club used to conduct in Forest Park every spring. (This was before Audubon came to St. Louis.) That summer, I helped teach bird study at the old Irondale Scout Camp.

After working for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho, researching lemmings at the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow, Alaska, and being the park naturalist at Montauk State Park, I graduated from the University of Missouri with a major in wildlife management.

As a science educator, I have taught at several of the local colleges and universities, as well as in an elementary classroom. For the past several years, I worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Besides nature study, fishing, hiking, and camping, I enjoy gardening and carving shorebird decoys in the styles of the hunters of 1870 to 1920.

My wife, 5 children, and 9 grandchildren enjoy nature and the outdoors as much as I.

I welcome the opportunity to give of my time and effort to help further the causes of the Audubon Society.

Holiday Open House at Tyson on December 7

This year, as in past years, St. Louis Audubon and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) will hold a joint Holiday Open House at the Tyson Research Center in West St. Louis County. Meet at the administration building between 1 and 4 pm on Sunday, December 7. Bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, cheese and crackers, cookies, or some other snack you like to nibble on. Soft drinks, wine and beer, and coffee will be provided.

Come prepared to hike along the roads, looking for winter birds and watching for the deer and turkey that abound in the area. Meet new friends and renew old acquaintances in a holiday atmosphere, in a winter setting away from the commercial side of the holidays.

Tyson Research Center of Washington University is located at the Antire Road exit on Interstate I-44, several miles west of the I-270/I-44 interchange. Register at the Gate House as you enter and proceed along the road to the cluster of buildings near the garage and office. The gate may be locked before and after the hours of the Open House. Call Jim Holsen at 822-0410 for further information.

Mark this Open House on your calendar now. There will not be time for another announcement in the December newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. For confirmation & more information, call trip leaders Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Carlyle Lake — *Sunday, October 5*, at 8 am. Meet at Horseshoe Lake to carpool to Carlyle Lake in Illinois. To get to Horseshoe, take I-55/70 east of St. Louis to north on Hwy 111. Go through park entrance to HQ building. Look for shorebirds, waterfowl, & gulls. See related "Migration" article on page 1 for more info.

Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge — *Saturday & Sunday, October 25 & 26*, at 8 am. We will meet with refuge manager & tour refuge; a wide variety of ducks, geese, swans, hawks, & eagles should be present in inspiring numbers! See related "Migration" article on page 1 for more info.

Busch Conservation Area — *Sunday, November 2*, at 8 am. In St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south of US 40, 1 mile to a right on Hwy D. Go 1.5 miles to entrance on right. Pass through gate to Hampton Lake parking lot on left.

Riverlands — *Saturday, November 22*, at 8 am. In St. Charles County near Alton, Il. Take Hwy 367 north of I-270, across Missouri River to right on last road before Mississippi River. Go east from gas station; turn right on first road to Teal Pond parking lot.

Horseshoe Lake — *Sunday, December 7*, at 9 am. Take I-55/70 east of St. Louis to north on Hwy 111. Go through park entrance to HQ building.

Audubon-Related Activities

Resource Center Network Open House — *Thursday, October 9*, 3 to 5:30 pm, at Powder Valley Nature Center. Education departments of many

institutions & organizations present with educational materials. For more info., call Mary Lou Miller, H# 389-3969.

Audubon All-Member Picnic — *Sunday, October 19*, 2 to 8 pm, at Shaw Arboretum's Freund Center. For more info. & to make reservations, call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410. See related article on page 1 & box on page 6.

Bird Seed Sale — *Saturday, October 25*, 10 am to 3 pm, at Wild Bird Center, 9815 Watson Rd. See brief article on page 3 and order form on page 5.

West Central Regional Conference — *Friday - Sunday, October 31 - November 2*, in Springfield, MO. For more info., call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410. See related article on page 2.

Missouri Environmental Fund Meeting — *Saturday, December 6*. For more info., call Jerry Klamon at 771-6668.

Holiday Open House with WGNSS — *Sunday, December 7*, 1 to 4 pm, at Tyson Research Center. For more info., call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410. See related article on page 2.

Special Events

World Bird Sanctuary Open House — *Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19*, 10 am to 5 pm. Place to be announced. For more info., call World Bird Sanctuary at 938-6193.

Day in the Forest — *Sunday, October 19*, at Rockwoods Conservation Area. For more info., call Powder Valley Nature Center, 301-1500.

World Ecology Day — *Friday, October 24*, 8:30 am to 2 pm, at University of MO-St. Louis. For more info., call Bernadette Dalton at 516-6203.

2nd Annual Statewide Conference on Environmental Education — *Friday - Sunday, October 24-26*, at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach. Hands-on learning experiences will help educators, youth leaders, naturalists, & other interested individuals to teach about environment. For more info., call MO Dept. of Conservation at 573/751-4115, ext. 370. See related article on page 6.

Last Chance to Order Bird Seed from October Sale

by Sue Smith

St. Louis Audubon's bird seed sale will be held on Saturday, October 25, at the Wild Bird Center at 9815 Watson Road in Crestwood.

Please use the order form on page 5 of this newsletter to order your seed. We will be having only 1 bird seed sale this year.

If you are attending the weekend birding trip to Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge on October 25 and 26, please call Dianne Johnson (H# 458-4369), Sue Jones (H# 721-0819), or Sue Smith (H# 256-7986), and we will make arrangements for an alternate pick-up date for your seed.

The chapter uses profits from the seed sale for educational activities. We appreciate your support while the winter birds will appreciate the seed.

Tyson Research Center Seeks Volunteers

The Field Science Department of Washington University's Tyson Research Center needs volunteers!

Our primary need is for volunteer instructors to work on weekdays helping with nature-related programs for schools. Topics include aquatic ecosystems, bird banding, forest ecology, geology, and animals. Volunteer instructors are also needed to help with or to present Scout programs on weekday afternoons or on Saturdays. These cover wildlife-related badge work for Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts. No previous knowledge is necessary as training will be provided.

Tyson is located just east of Eureka. Please call Janice Starke at the Tyson Field Science Program, 935-8437, for more information.

If you are interested in the wild and natural and enjoy working with children in the great outdoors--we need you!

The Conservation Corner

The Brilliance of Missouri's Autumn by Bill Groth

The most brilliant fall tree colors are seen in North America. Only hardwood trees growing in the world's temperate zones turn these brilliant colors.

European forests do not have enough hardwoods or enough different species for a display as we have. And China has cut down most of its forests. Although Missouri's Ozark colors rival those found in New England, that area seems to have a better public relations firm to call attention to this feature.

All leaves have yellows, reds, oranges, browns, and purples hiding under their green chlorophyll. When a leaf dies and the chlorophyll breaks down, the other colors become visible.

Fall colors vary from year to year depending upon the weather. A fairly dry spell in late summer, followed by warm sunny days and cool, crisp nights, produces the brightest colors.

If you look closely, not only does each kind of tree have different colors, but each tree of the same kind, and each leaf on the same tree, is different.

Fall Migration . . . from page 1

On October 25 and 26, we will take a weekend trip to Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge on the Illinois River near Havana. Russ Englekey, the refuge manager, will take us to the best locations to view what should be thousands of ducks, geese, and migrating raptors. On Sunday, we will travel south along the Illinois River, stopping at other great waterfowl sites along the way. Eventually, we will make our way to Grafton, Illinois, where we will drive along the bluffs on the River Road. This weekend should also be the peak of fall colors, so it has to be a great time.

If you have any questions about these outings, call me at H# 536-1119. If you wish to register for the Chautauqua trip, send \$5 per registration to:

Jim Malone
15424 Elk Ridge Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Cyberbirding?! What the Heck is That???

By Jim Malone

So you got yourself a computer and a modem, and you have access to the Internet--now what? Well, you could spend all day looking at St. Louis weather radar images--or you could feed that thirst for knowledge (about birds, conservation, and Audubon, of course) right there on the Internet and have fun doing it!

Cyberbirding, as this computerized "birding" has been called, is becoming very popular these days. Although nothing takes the place of actually being out there observing the birds, you have to admit that there is some appeal in birdwatching in a controlled environment where you don't have to spray for ticks! Many of the sites mentioned in this series also contain the tools that might help you become a better birder by helping you with identifications, bird songs, and lots of background information.

In this first installment of a 3-part series, I will give you Internet addresses in quotes and brief descriptions of several great sites for birders. In the second installment, the list will cover wildlife conservation sites and organizations. The last segment will show you how to contact your government, look at bills going through Congress, and learn how to find other neat sites like these on your own.

Once you visit these locations on the 'net, do some exploring on your own by clicking on hotlinks which will take you to other locations. Usually you can tell these links from the rest of the text around them because they are a different color or they are underlined.

Here are a few selected birding sites to get you started. To view each site, type the complete listing within the quotes (do not include the quotes) where your browser asks for a URL or address.

"<http://www.birder.com>" — This site is a great place to start! There are lots of links to nearly all of the important birding sites.

"<http://www.birding.com/default.asp>" — Thayer Birding Software site. Not only

does this company explain its array of software, but it also has links providing phone numbers for several rare bird alert lines, latest versions of the AOU state checklists, 100 top birding spots, and even a listing of bird jokes.

"<http://www.petersononline.com>" — This is brought to you by the people who make the Peterson Field Guides. This site has lots of information about birds. One of the most interesting features is a listing of rare bird alerts for the East, Central, and West United States.

"<http://webster.skypoint.net/members/pheo/Blueb.html>" — The Bluebird Page.

"<http://home.sol.no/tibjohn/>" — This is the Fugleskue Birdwatch, a great site for beginners and everyone else!

"<http://www.birds.org.il/>" — This educational site allows you to track the progress of migrating birds.

"<http://www.im.nbs.gov/bbs/htmgame/maingame.html>" — Patuxent Bird Quiz. Test your bird identifying skills with pictures and sounds of a number of birds.

"<http://www.utm.edu/~phertzel/migration.htm>" — Shorebird Migration Page. Get the current status of the U.S. shorebird migration.

"<http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/>" — The Virtual Birder, with lots of information, quizzes, and entertaining stories about birding in this Internet magazine for birders.

"http://ice.ucdavis.edu/US_National_Park_Service/NPS_birds.html" — Birds at National Parks.

"<http://www.sover.net/~terrapin/birdfeed.htm>" — Learn about attracting birds and bird feeding.

"<http://www.biddeford.com/sing/BVDHome.html>" — A Better View Desired. This is a great place to find out about optics for birding.

"http://www.nfwf.org/b_97_dt.htm" — 1997 Directory of Birding Festivals.

"<http://www.ornith.cornell.edu/Birding/ny/ethics.html>" — ABA Code of Birding Ethics.

This list contains only a small number of birding sites, but with a little bit of persistence, you should be able to follow links from these sites all over the world. Enjoy!

Bird Puzzlers from National Audubon

Rich Feldman of the Human Resources Department of National Audubon, based in Audubon House in New York, collects "Bird Puzzlers" (by various Auduboners) and makes them available through email and also creates some of his own.

(By Rich Feldman, taken from the *Chapter Networker*, Spring 1997)

A few sample clues and answers follow, so you can "get the drift." Then, try your hand at Rich's latest Puzzlers.

Clues and answers to previous Puzzlers:

1. A sad voice = blue throat
2. What a short cowboy wears = longspur
3. Experimental = guineafowl

Puzzlers

What bird (is) --

1. a British jet
2. jingles
3. married to Jesus (with all due respect)
4. an outfielder
5. not sure of the words
6. a victim of Exxon Valdise
7. a Scotsman on the beach
8. a happy dog
9. a feathered feline
10. a backpacker

(answers listed on page 8)

The St. Louis Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, October 25, 10 am to 3 pm
Wild Bird Center
9815 Watson Road (Watson Center) Crestwood

The St. Louis Audubon Society is again conducting a bird seed sale to benefit the chapter's conservation and education programs. Get your supply of bird seed from St. Louis Audubon--encourage your friends, neighbors, and relatives to make orders, also.

This year 4 different seed types are available: 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of black oil-type sunflower seed, 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of premium mix bird seed, 10-lb. bags of thistle/niger seed, and 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of safflower seed.

To order, please complete the order form below. You will need to pick up your bird seed on October 25 at the Wild Bird Center between 10 am and 3 pm, or your seed will be forfeited and resold. One week prior to the sale, a postcard will be sent to you to verify that your order and check were received and to remind you of the pick-up place and time.

If you have any questions, please call Dianne Johnson (H# 458-4369), Sue Smith (H# 256-7986), or Sue Jones (H# 721-0819). Your order and check must be received by October 18. Checks will not be cashed until after the pick-up date.

(Please detach here; mail bottom portion along with your check.)

BIRD SEED ORDER FORM

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Address _____



# of 25-lb. bags sunflower seed	_____ X \$8 @= _____
# of 50-lb. bags sunflower seed	_____ X \$14 @= _____
# of 25-lb. bags premium mix	_____ X \$8 @= _____
# of 50-lb. bags premium mix	_____ X \$14 @= _____
# of 10-lb. bags thistle/niger	_____ X \$13 @= _____
# of 25-lb. bags safflower	_____ X \$13 @= _____
# of 50-lb. bags safflower	_____ X \$24 @= _____



(Mail early to ensure
receipt of order by
October 18--THANKS!)

Total Amount (check enclosed) _____

Mail order & check to:

**Bird Seed
Sue Jones
7425 Parkdale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105**

Please make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

St. Louis Audubon All-Member Picnic

Freund Center Shaw Arboretum

Sunday, October 19, 1997 2 - 8 pm

Meat (hamburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs, etc.) and soda will be furnished. Bring a dish to share with everyone, other drinks that you may prefer, and your own eating utensils, plates, etc. We will plan to eat between 5 and 6 pm.

Please call Jim Holsen (822-0410 day/evening) by the end of the day on **Wednesday, October 15**, to make reservations for the number expected in your group. If no answer, please leave a message on the answering machine. This will help us to estimate needed amounts of food.

See the related article on page 1 for more details and for directions to the Freund Center.



The Education Corner

St. Louis Audubon to Support Publication of Revised Edition of *Birds of the St. Louis Area*

by Jim Holsen

At its September meeting the St. Louis Audubon Society board of directors voted to support the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) in preparing a revision to the book *Birds of the St. Louis Area: Where and When to Find Them*.

The book, first published by WGNSS in late 1995, includes maps and descriptions of the best birding locations in the metropolitan area and provides bar graphs which describe the occurrence (abundant, common, uncommon, rare, etc.) of all species which have been observed within 50 miles of St. Louis City.

The book, authored by Connie Alwood, Dick Anderson, Paul Bauer, Randy Korotev, and Jack Van

Benthuyzen, has been available in wild bird stores, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and in book stores. (Dick Anderson is deceased.) The initial edition of 3,000 copies is now nearly exhausted. The initial printing was financed by WGNSS and by the individual authors, who received no profits from the book. Audubon will provide funds which will help WGNSS to pay for a revision and second printing of the book and will be reimbursed from the sales of future copies.

Audubon members interested in becoming acquainted with birding spots in the local area should investigate this book. Birders who dial the Nature Line at 935-8432 for weekly updates of local bird sightings will find it easier to locate the areas referred to if they have this book available. It enables beginners and more experienced birders to go where the birds are expected to be, when they are expected to be there.

Audubon is glad to assist WGNSS and the authors in keeping this book available to St. Louis residents--it is one of the many things that add to the quality of life in the St. Louis area.

Environmental Education Conference to be Held at Tan-Tar-A

by Dianne Johnson

The Missouri Environmental Education Association and the Office of Environmental Education (OEE) will be sponsoring the second annual Conference on Environmental Education, October 24 to 26, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Other state agencies are cosponsors of this event.

On Saturday and Sunday, programs will be divided into concurrent 60-minute presentations and both 60- and 120-minute workshops. The 60-minute presentations include general topics such as sustainability and environmental stewardship with specific talks on watersheds, caves, population, urban strategies, lead mining, and landfills. Workshops feature outdoor classrooms, watersheds, vanishing frogs, earthworms and humus, climate change, trees, isopods, and greenhouse gases.

The conference registration fee is \$125 for those who register by October 3 and \$150 afterward. This fee includes all meals, but not lodging. A flat room rate of \$85.50 per night for up to 4 people is offered by Tan-Tar-A until October 3 (ph. 800/826-8272). All-day workshops are also available at additional fees on Friday. For registration information, call Susan Brouk, MU Conference Office, at 573/882-2429. For more information about the conference programs, call Kim Wade, Office of Environmental Education, at 573/751-4115, ext. 370.

One of the sponsors of this conference, the OEE was created in the Education Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation in July 1996. Its goals are to connect formal and non-formal educators with environmental education resources and to provide leadership for environmental education in Missouri.

An environmentally literate person knows about and understands the natural world, human interaction with the natural environment, and environmental issues. Educators can provide students with an awareness and appreciation of natural resources, the knowledge of how to investigate environmental issues, and the skills necessary to implement responsible actions.

Monsanto EcoFair a Rousing Success

What could be better than spending a sunny September day with a cool breeze and about 1,500 others interested in learning how to live with less impact on our planet? This was the scene on September 6 at the 1997 Monsanto EcoFair.

Thirty-three organizations were represented at the fair, and there was a constant stream of visitors throughout the 6-hour event. In addition to the organizations in the main tent, the World Bird Sanctuary provided 3 flight shows demonstrating a barn owl, screech owl, Harris' hawk, and other great raptors. The St. Louis Zoo also brought a nice assortment of animals.

Throughout the fair, a background of live bluegrass music and a wide variety of refreshments (from burgers to veggies, fruit, and drinks) kept the crowd happy.

There was information available about local environmental groups, outdoor activities, alternative building materials, growing information, and lots of other ways you can help promote a cleaner, healthier environment into the next millennium.

The St. Louis Audubon Society booth was a popular location for fair goers, giving out lots of information about birding, birdhouse plans, bird feeding approaches, and other information about our education programs. We also sold over \$125 worth of field guides, t-shirts,

caps, etc., which helped make it a great day for all. Thanks to Auduboners **Mary Dueren** and **Jim Malone** for manning this booth.

If you didn't make it to the fair this year, keep an eye out for the event next year and join in on the informative fun!



The Saga of Stretch the Duck

by Marianne Merello

One bright and beautiful morning, a couple of years ago, I received an unexpected telephone call. It was from a wild animal rescue league inquiring if I wanted to "parent" an imprinted male mallard duck.

I had just purchased 2 white Peking ducks a few weeks before, so I wasn't too anxious to take on an addition. However, after listening to the speaker's plea, I relented and Stretch was delivered to me within the week. I was, somehow, beginning to feel like the lady who lived in the shoe.

It seems Stretch was imprinted on humans, not ducks, had 2 injured wings which prevented him from flying, and would not go near a body of water.

What a predicament for a wild duck!

Stretch and I imprinted immediately--he on me and me on him. He was delightfully tame, allowing me to hold him, especially his beautiful, satiny, iridescent head close to mine. He followed me everywhere, speaking incessantly and telling me all about his previous experiences at the hands of a small boy. This went on for 2 or 3 weeks, with Stretch holding true to his reputation of not going near the water or associating with the other geese or ducks--that is, until he saw Beeper.

Here was this perfectly gorgeous, white young lady with a cute turned-up tail that was slightly tinged with pale yellow, and she didn't have any strings attached that we knew of. Well, when these 2 discovered each other, it was love at first sight. Stretch forgot about not liking water because if he was going to court Beeper, he had to swim for her. He forgot about his 2 injured wings, and he forgot about being imprinted only on humans. As of that time, he was imprinted on a lovely new lady--and she on him.

The 2 have become inseparable and are a joy to watch. Since that time, another tame duck I became a foster parent to has joined the family and them, but it is very evident that Kobina remains just a good friend.

What a joy to behold a bit of nature being acted out which might be titled "The Three Musketeers."

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired:

New

Renewal

Introductory/\$20

Individual/\$35

Family/\$40

Sustaining/\$50

Supporting/\$100

Sr. Citizen/\$21

Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:

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If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
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Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call 314/822-6595.

Our Thoughts with the Millers

Mary Lou and Jerry Miller, both past presidents of St. Louis Audubon, have had some personal setbacks recently. Mary Lou's son Derek, who lives in Boulder, Colorado, is suffering from stomach cancer. In August, Jerry experienced a heart attack but is recovering well and has returned to work. For years, both Mary Lou and Jerry have given unselfishly of their time for many different Audubon causes and projects.

Answers to Bird Puzzlers on page 5:

1. harrier
2. bellbird
3. nunbird
4. flycatcher
5. hummingbird
6. oilbird
7. sandpiper
8. wagtail
9. catbird
10. canvasback

Newsletter Information

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Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **December 1, 1997** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).

Member Organization
Environmental Fund
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St. Louis Audubon Society



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